

Testimony in **Support** of SB 4 AN ACT CONCERNING CONNECTICUT'S PRESENT
AND FUTURE HOUSING NEEDS

February 28, 2023

Dear Co-chairs Representative Luxenberg and Senator Moore, Ranking Members Representative Scott and Senator Sampson and distinguished members of the Housing Committee:

My name is Janet Bellamy, I am a resident of Ashford CT. I am writing in support of SB 4 as I feel it will help address our state's severe housing shortage, help keep families in their homes by increasing affordable housing and increasing tenant protections.

The importance of affordable housing has a personal connection to me as I am helping an elderly friend who is unable to stay in his home find a suitable and affordable apartment. Ashford has only 3.36% affordable housing with approximately 28% of them cost-burdened (paying more than 30% of income on housing costs).

Section 21 of the bill will provide a grant program to invest \$200 million for 5 years to improve energy efficiency in tenant occupied housing. This will benefit tenants in low-income and Environmental Justice communities who will be able to save money on utility bills. Electrification and use of renewables will also help Connecticut meet it's climate goals.

Money will be available to remediate health and safety concerns, such as mold, vermiculite, asbestos, lead and radon. This will improve the air quality of the homes. All of our residents deserve a safe place to live and raise their children, this will help make that happen.

Thanks you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Janet Bellamy

Ashford, Connecticut